GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2200
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
USE OF NEEM
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicinal and cosmetic application of neem has been underutilised in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase and popularise the use of neem in the above and other fields; and

(c) measures taken for proper growth and sowing of neem trees?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The medicinal, cosmetics and other applications of Neem have not been fully tapped in the country. The measures taken by the Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE Dehradun to popularize the use of neem for various purposes including forestry are given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 220(02.12.2002 REGARDING USE OF NEEM

Measures taken by the Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Educatio (ICFRE), Dehradun to popularize use of Neem are as follows:

1. Organized meetings of the International Neem Network in 1993 and 2001 at Jodhpur to formulate guidelines and evaluate the performance of the international neem provenance trials.

2. Efforts made to control swarming of Locusts through the application of neem seed extracts in the desert areas of Jodhpur in 1993.

3. Organized six training courses for the 300 farmers at Jodhpur to popularize the techniques of propagation of Neem and its uses.

4. Under the FAO Neem Network, 1995, the field-trials of 18 International Provenances on Neem have been carried out at Jodhpur, Jaipur, Jablapur and Coimbatore.

5. The provenance trials of Neem from 39 seed sources collected from all over the country were laid out in 1992 for assessment of the oil and azadirachtin contents.

6. Five hundred & thirty-seven Candidate Plus Trees of Neem in various parts of the country have been identified.

7. Twelve Hectare of Seedling Seed Orchards of Neem have been raised at Jodhpur and Jaipuras a source of good quality seeds of neem.

8. Model Plantation of Neem over an area of 15 hectare established at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Himmatnagar and Pali to demonstrate the plantation techniques.

9. Three lakh seedlings of Neem have been raised by AFRI, Jodhpur for distribution to the farmers.

10. Clonal propagation techniques of Neem have been standardized at AFRI, Jodhpur for mass multiplication of seedlings of Neem having superior genetic characteristics.

11. Organized a National Seminar on 'Popularizing Theme Trees among the People including Rural & Urban Forestry Industry' at Dehradun by ICFRE on 24-25th September, 1998.